



Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway

SMBTP/HOA COALITION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 23, 2005
 Time: 11:30 am
 Location: Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library
 2920 Overland Ave, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
 Los Angeles, Ca 90064

Attendees:

David Sickler	COLA-PW Commissioner	Paul Backstrom	COLA – CD #5
Keith Pritsker	COLA - City Atty. Office	Tonya Durrell	COLA-Public Affairs
Gary Lee Moore	COLA – BOE	Charles Edelson	WHA/CWW
Phil Richardson	COLA – BOE	Joan Little	CWW
Luis Ganaja	COLA – BOE	Mike Eveloff	Tr. 7260
Carl Nelson	COLA – BOE	Zahirah Washington	Tr. 7260-Attorney
Antonio Medina	COLA – BOE	Arturo Martinez	OAC/WSSM
Sharon McDonald	COLA – BOE	Marilyn Cohon	WSSM
John E. Fisher	COLA – LADOT	John B. Murdock	WSSM-Attorney
Glenn Ogura	COLA – LADOT	Bennet Cohon	WSSM
Lance Oishi	COLA – BSS	Gerald Chao	OAC/WSSM
Susan Bursk	COLA – CD #5		
Beverly Kenworthy	COLA – CD #5		

COLA = City of Los Angeles
 BOE = Bureau of Engineering
 BSS = Bureau of Street Services
 LADOT = L.A. Dept. of Transportation
 CD #5 = Council District No. 5
 HOA = Homeowners Association Coalition

Tr. 7260 = Tract 7260 Homeowners Association
 WSSM = Westwood South of Santa Monica Association
 WHA = Westwood Homeowners Association
 OAC = Overland Ave Community
 CWW = Century Westwood Watch

DISCUSSION:

1. After introductions, it was agreed to go over each item of HOA's concerns as discussed on City's response letter dated August 17, 2005 and HOA letter dated August 22, 2005. The following is a list of each item with the corresponding City action. If the item is listed without an **ACTION**, then at this point, the City plans to pursue the response described in the City's August 17 letter. It should be noted that any HOA actions have not been identified.

Item A – Remove Island at Comstock

- HOA is requesting an additional egress point further east of north frontage road at Comstock Ave to allow earlier access to main Santa Monica Blvd (SMB) and opportunity for S/B Beverly Glen Blvd access thereby reducing pressure at Comstock Ave egress point. HOA proposal was provided on June 10, 2005. HOA wants to avoid traffic going into northerly community via Comstock Ave during peak time.
- LADOT stated that the frontage road was designed to be used by local traffic to access local businesses and community.
- LADOT agreed to remove the island.
- **ACTION:** LADOT will review adding egress point.

Item B – Eliminate the Island at Camden

- LADOT has prepared a design to eliminate the painted island that the HOA believed encouraged motorists to use Camden Ave as a bypass route. What is currently out in this area is not the final configuration but is construction related.
- **ACTION:** Painted island will be eliminated.



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Item #1 – Fox Hills Island

- LADOT has prepared a new design that eliminates the island.
- This item associated with Item #8.
- HOA to get their Traffic Engineer expert's opinion on new design.

Item #2 – Large Signs

- HOA wants to know why such signs are to be used on project area. Especially the sign at Overland Ave and SMB. HOA stated that the sign will direct more use of Overland Ave.
- LADOT stated that the signs are not "freeway" sized signs but much smaller. At Overland Ave, LADOT selected the sign to make sure that W/B traffic on Little SMB is safely advised to proper turns. LADOT does not want to add any more traffic to Overland Ave. These signs were sized pursuant to approved City, State, and Federal guidelines and standards as well as collective engineering experience.
- **ACTION:** LADOT will review the overhead sign at Overland Ave and will design the smallest sign (including lettering sizes) possible, and also review the ground mounted signs.
- **ACTION:** BOE will direct Contractor to hold back on manufacturing the Overland Ave signs.

Item #3 – Changeable Message Signs

- HOA expressed their unchanged opposition to these signs. HOA is concerned that the placement of the west bound sign would force drivers to use the frontage road and cut through.
- LADOT explained that the changeable message signs are intended to guide motorists along Santa Monica Blvd and direct traffic to alternate routes when problems occur. However, they will never direct traffic to local streets. These signs have been attractively designed.
- **ACTION:** LADOT will review the matter.

Item #4 – Frontage Road Textured Surface

- HOA suggested that a test section be installed.
- BSS stated that they are working on a proposal to install textured pavement using a new technology. The textured pavement will be installed longitudinally within the roadway. A sample of such pavement was installed within a crosswalk at National Blvd and Manning Ave.
- **ACTION:** COLA will review alternatives to slow speeding cars.

Item #5 – North Eastern Frontage Road Entry Width

- HOA stated that the entry width is too wide.
- LADOT stated that the entry width will be narrowed to 13 feet.
- HOA wanted some type of physical barrier to be placed because motorists can still drive over the painted island.
- **ACTION:** LADOT will review the matter.

Item #6 – Transit Stop/Bench Advertising

- City Attorney stated that the advertising on this project is part of a City-wide program where advertisers provide benches, kiosks, etc in exchange for advertising opportunities. Any changes must be handled at the City level.
- **ACTION:** Community and COLA will continue working to seek an acceptable resolution.

Item #7 – No EB-BSMB to SB-BG Turn Movement

- HOA expressed concern that there is no dedicated right turn lane at eastbound SMB at Beverly Glen Blvd. HOA had previously submitted a sketch that would provide the right turn lane and eliminate the west bound entry to LSMBL.



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- LADOT stated that the island separating BSMB from LSMB cannot be modified to provide an eastbound right turn lane because the island is needed for pedestrian storage and to meet ADA requirements for handicapped access.
- **ACTION:** COLA to review the matter.

Item #8 – CPW U-turn

- HOA expressed their concern that since there is no U-turn at Century Park West then eastbound motorists will be forced to travel south on the residential streets to get back to northbound Beverly Glen Blvd. HOA proposed that a U-turn opening be constructed west of Century Park West. In addition, HOA proposes that an egress point be provided at the frontage road between Benecia Ave. and Fox Hills Dr. so that traffic can access the new U-turn opening.
- LADOT informed HOA that traffic is allowed to make U-turns at eastbound SMB at Beverly Glen Blvd.
- BOE stated that there is a major grade difference between the westbound and eastbound lanes of SMB at the Century Park West area.
- **ACTION:** COLA to review the matter.

Item #9 – Stop Signs at North Frontage Road

- HOA requested that they should not have to wait six months for the stop signs to be installed. If the HOA requests that CD #5 contact LADOT that the stop signs be installed, then the work should be done at that time.
- **ACTION:** LADOT will install the stop signs earlier if they are justified.

Item #10 – Three Lanes In Each Direction

- HOA requested that the three lanes of traffic in each direction be provided during construction.
- BOE stated that COLA has worked on and studied this issue for a long time and has determined that it is not feasible to construct this project within required time with the three lane condition.
- **ACTION:** COLA will continue informing the community/business of when/where two or three lanes of traffic are necessary.

Item #11 – Misuse of \$700,000 Mitigation Fund

- HOA expressed their commitment to work closely with COLA and especially CD#5 on the \$700,000 Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) that will be implemented after construction is completed.
- HOA also would like to confirm that the traffic mitigation work required at Westholme Ave and Overland Ave during and after construction (see EIR pg. 1-13) is to be done and paid by project funds not NTMP funds (\$700,000).
- **ACTION:** BOE/LADOT will review HOA's concerns for during-construction mitigation and report back next meeting. A task force made up of representatives for each HOA, LADOT, CD #5, and BOE will be established/created for the use of the post construction funds.

Item #12 – EB/WB Stop Signs at Pandora on LSMB

- HOA stated that the City's response seems to say that because the original plans were improperly changed, a feature of the original plan, specifically the stop signs at Pandora, can now not be implemented.
- LADOT/BOE stated because the extra cut out was added at Pandora Ave no Stop signs can be placed.
- **ACTION:** COLA will review the matter.



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Item #13 – EB-LSMB to EB-BSMB Extra Cut-Out

- HOA has proposed to close off Little SMB to westbound traffic at Beverly Glen Blvd thereby reducing traffic on Little SMB between Beverly Glen Blvd and Overland Ave so it can become a frontage road with local access only. This proposal may eliminate the need for the double left turn lanes at Overland Ave.
- HOA stated that this proposal will not significantly impact the local businesses on Little SMB because there are few businesses within this stretch and those that are there, e.g. La Cachette, are "destination" businesses that customers know how to reach.
- **ACTION:** COLA will review the matter.

Item #14 – Stop Signs/South Frontage Road

- HOA stated that this item is same as Item #9

Item #15 – Overland/LSMB Right Arrow

- HOA indicated that they would discuss this with their Traffic Engineer.

Item #16 – Overland/LSMB

- This item associated with Items #12, 13 and 15.

Item #17 – Merge Lane From LSMB to BSMB Between Manning/Parnell

- **ACTION:** LADOT will review the matter.

Item #18 – 10 Freeway Signage

- HOA decided to not discuss this item at this time.

Item #19 – Through Lane – N. Frontage Road Beverly Glen to Club View

- This item is covered in Item #A.

Item #20 – Egress-Only Lane from North Frontage Road to WB-BSMB between Warnall / Comstock

- This item is covered in Item #A.

Item #21 – Local Street Signs

- HOA will work with COLA on a mutually acceptable solution.

2. HOA requested to know if construction will continue in the areas affected by their concerns. BOE stated that construction work will continue but that for the time period up to the next meeting (approximately three weeks), this would not preclude any modification work that is agreed upon as a result of discussions with HOA.
3. BOE agreed to prepare a map showing the striping and turn movements allowed on a scale similar to the new map presented at this meeting that shows construction progress.
4. HOA and COLA agreed to meet again to follow up on the actions discussed today.

Meeting concluded at approximately 12:40 PM.

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on September 9, 2005 at the 2nd floor meeting room of the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library (2920 Overland Ave, L.A. CA 90064)